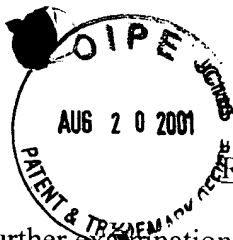


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Remarks

Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested. Applicants assert that all pending claims are in consideration for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any aspect of this Preliminary Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

RECEIVED

Respectfully submitted,

AUG 23 2001

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Timothy H. Van Dyke".

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

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